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MUSHROOM SPAWN.

RECENT WORKS ON GARDENING.

GARDENING TOOLS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. 16th September, 1883. (52)

NOTICE.

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SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED, PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

Notice.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson and Co., or HONGKONG DISPENSARY, 123

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until discontinued.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the supply is limited.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 2nd, 1883.

THE MEDICAL RECORDS issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs of China invariably contain much useful and interesting information.

In the volume for the half-year ended 31st March last we find several items of general interest, besides a large amount of matter of a purely technical nature. In his report on the health of Hainan Dr. A. HENRY

says:—"Natives have shown no willingness to submit themselves to foreign medical treatment, save in trivial cases. When severe illness attacks them, they dread the supposed powerful influence of foreign drugs." Dr. E. A. ALDRIDGE, in his report on the health of Hainan, also says:—

"About the only foreign medicine that the natives have any faith in is quinine, and one foreign firm does a good business in that drug. A great quantity of what is called sulphate of quinine, cannot, judging from its price of as well as action, but of a very inferior or spurious quality, the wholesale price of it being only 25 to 40 cents, and the retail price 80 cents to \$1 an ounce. Without employing chemical agents, it is often not easy to distinguish this cheap article from the really genuine drug. Under the microscope it shows nearly the same form of crystals, but is much more soluble in water and more acrid to the taste; on the label of some of the bottles the name of no firm is given, while others have the name of a Paris firm of chemists. It is hardly to be expected that the Chinese should at once adopt the use of foreign drugs, and it is much to be regretted that when they evince a tendency in that direction they should have spurious articles palmed off on them. Possibly, however, the cheap quinine referred to may include a small percentage of the genuine article, and in any case it will be as harmless as the native means of dealing with the disease. Dr. ALDRIDGE tells us that in Hainan there is a temple dedicated to CHANG CHU LUNG, a general who did good service for the Chinese against the Liao. In the hands of a figure representing one of the general's lieutenants nearly every day borne from the temple, and good results were said to accrue from placing it round the necks of sufferers from ague. After reading of such ignorant superstition as this it is refreshing to notice the references to vaccination and its intelligent adoption by the Chinese. Dr. ALDRIDGE, further on in his report, says:—"The vaccinator WANG, from the Tung Wah Hospital, Hongkong, who for the last few years has paid a winter visit to this island, has during this last winter done some very good work, having, with the assistance of his son, performed vaccination in Hainan upwards of 2,700 times, in Kiangchow, 600, and in the outlying villages, 3,200—in all, 6,500 times. At present he is on a tour through the eastern districts of Hainan. His salary is paid by the hospital; the sum of 100 cash is charged for vaccination, part of which goes to defray the expenses of chair hire, etc., and the remainder is given to the parents of the child from whom the lymph is taken. For some time past there have been very few cases of small-pox in this part of the island. The year before last, CHANG CHU LUNG, the late Viceroy of the Liang Kuang provinces, desiring to give employment to a number of petty exponents of officials who had nothing to do, and with the belief that some benefit might accrue to the people, established a vaccination station at Canton, and then sent them into the 72 districts of Kwangtung, at the same time giving instructions that their salaries were to be paid by the local officials of the districts they visited. Some of these men arrived at Hainan, but

did very little service; the people would have nothing to do with them, and they soon had to return to Canton." Dr. HENRY, of Ichang, has a note on the same subject. He says:—"This spring a good deal of vaccination has been done at the instance of an association which subscribed the funds for obtaining the lymph from Hainan. Whether owing to this or not, small-pox has not been nearly so prevalent this year as in former years. A great deal of good might be done by missionaries learning to vaccinate. Even being able to distinguish between spurious and true vaccination would be of some service, considering that the vaccine matter of native practitioners is sometimes fictitious." The recommendation here conveyed will no doubt meet with due consideration from those for whom it is intended.

Dr. JAMIESON, of Shanghai, includes in his report a valuable disquisition on cholera.—"In my reports for 1877 and 1878," he says, "I have found a review to date of the modern literature of cholera, and a history of cholera epidemics in Shanghai, so far as it can be constructed from the defective and scattered records of early days. Every year since has witnessed the occurrence of a disease which, though roughly qualified as cholera, bears no relation to any known periodical epidemic wave. The conditions which call it into activity seem to be local and personal. Local, because of their independence of contagion brought from outside or of epidemic waves; personal, inasmuch as almost every case can be in part explained by some avoidable error, dietetic or other. It is probable, though not proved, that, once established, the malarial is communicable by the intestinal excretions of the sufferers. The mortality is higher than the average mortality of epidemic cholera as deduced from observation elsewhere of large numbers of cases spread over extensive areas. The symptoms are those of cholera in a particularly malignant form; the course is generally rapid, and a fatal termination is the rule, unless the attack be treated in its earliest stage. When advice is sought, as it rarely is, at the very beginning, the symptoms usually yield to judicious treatment. This I have already said in my Reports above cited, but in such fortunate cases the doubt always remains whether one has really had to do with a form which, if neglected would have proved fatal."

Having noticed various official reports on the subject, Dr. JAMIESON quotes in full an address by Professor MAXON PETERKOWSKY, of Munich, the concluding sentences of which we may here reproduce:—"Cholerae were built and won before the laws of motion and friction were known. Communication was had with remote places before the days of the electric telegraph. And so we recommend cleanliness, drainage, and plentiful provision of pure water, elevated sites, ventilation, etc., for although we do not know their intimate relations to the cholera process, we obtained many proofs during the 1873-74 epidemics of their favourable influence on health, and of the unfavourable influence of their opposites. As science further develops, we may expect just such advances in our knowledge about these matters as resulted to trade from railroads, steamboats, and telegraphs as soon as an intimate knowledge of the laws of motion and electricity rendered their application to practical problems possible. Empiricism exhausts itself and repeats itself. To science belongs continual progress and the future."

As bearing on the question of pure water in China, the following extract from Dr. ALDRIDGE's report on Hainan is of interest, and may prove reassuring to travellers in China who generally have to take what water they can get:—"In my opinion, however, drinking water obtained from near a graveyard in China may be very different from that taken from near a European graveyard, for in the latter case the water is much more liable to pollution than in the former. A European coffin is often made of soft wood planks, lightly screwed together, while the wood forming a Chinese coffin is the hardest procurable, and some inches thick, the planks being dovetailed together; the corpse is often wrapped in cotton wool an inch or so thick, and the coffin filled up with lime, and cemented inside and out with charcoal, thus making it completely watertight. Everyone can bear witness to the odour emitted by a European coffin within a few days, but such is never the case in China, where the temperature is often so much higher. The coffin here is frequently left for weeks without burial, but in such cases I have never detected any offensive smell,—which is due to the fact of the corpse becoming dust without any poisonous oozing from the coffin. Even though I think the Pail-yi Spring runs little risk of being contaminated on account of being near old graves, it is very advisable that for the future there should be no burials near. If this point is attended to, there is not likely to be any risk of contamination, for all danger, if there ever was, is now, I believe, passed, there having been no interments near the spring for some time."

Gravestones in China are, we imagine, far less likely to contaminate adjacent springs than the vicinity to them of a cluster of Chinese houses, which are always undrained.

As cremation is a subject of considerable interest at the present moment, the following details concerning the practice as conducted by the Chinese in the neighbourhood of Ichang, taken from Dr. HENRY's report, are of some value:—"Sometimes children are cremated here. This is only done for superstitious reasons. Where several young children of a family have died in succession, the body of one of them is burned, the supposition being that the ceremony will ensure the survival of the next child that is born to the family. I witnessed last summer one performance of the kind. The body was simply brought to the open fields in a box, some firewood was piled round it and set fire to. The absence of odour was remarkable. The book in which the subject of cremation in China is treated of only speaks of the rite being followed in the case of Buddhist priests and lepers. It is hard to reconcile with the present almost universal practice of burial, or with the absence of mention of cremation in Chinese historical works, the repeated assertions of Marco Polo that the Chinese people, in every place he came to, were in the habit of burning their dead. In this neighbourhood, out of the many Buddhist temples around,

there is only one the inmates of which are burned alive. The manner in which the process is carried out is both efficient and pathetic, and, moreover, it is not expensive—at least, the cost does not bear comparison with the large sums that the admirers of the practice in Europe are reported to incur. In the grounds of the temple there is a small dome-like edifice the interior of which communicates with the open air by only a small door. On a stone seat inside the dome the priest is placed in a sitting posture, and around him is piled a quantity of charcoal and firewood. The seat is set on fire; the door is then shut until combustion is complete. The calcined bones are collected and placed in a jar, which is preserved in one of the niches in an adjoining mortuary chapel. The latter building is also a small dome, and contains great numbers of these mortuary urns." The process described above, we believe, is almost identical with that adopted in the great Buddhist Monastery at Hainan, Canton, where the monks are cremated.

The delivery of the French mail was begun at 11.15 on Saturday morning.

The United States corvette Junonia left here on Saturday morning for Canton.

We are informed by the Superintendent of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company that the long-kong-shan cable is repaired and communication restored.

Ordinance No. 7 of 1883, entitled "The Order and General Administration Ordinance, 1883," having been confirmed by His Majesty, is promulgated by His Excellency the Administrator in the Gazette.

Hawley's Italian Opera Company, comprising first-class artists, arrived at Singapore from Cologne by the French steamer Andager, and were to open a season in the Town Hall on the last with Verdi's opera "La Traviata."

The British corvette Cleopatra, Captain H. N. Kippeler, arrived here on Saturday morning from St. Vladimir Bay, in Siberia. On anchor, the Cleopatra exchanged salutes with the Junonia. She has followed close upon the Linnet.

The return of the Collector of Stamp Revenue for September, as published in the Chinese Gazette, shows a total of \$13,882.95, compared with \$13,010.00 in the same month last year, exhibiting an increase of \$872.95. The principal items showing increase are Bank Notes and adhesive stamps.

The attention of the Indian Government has been drawn to a new plant, which is common in Southern India, and yields a valuable supply of pure cotton. It is an agave-like plant called *Prunella glandulifera*, the native habitat of which appears to be in the forests of Coochin China, where the liquid juice is often employed in medicine by the Chinese. It is a frequent ingredient in the Chinese materia medica, in the shape of blackened fragments of bark and small pieces of twigs.

The following account, duly certified, of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation in Hongkong, as published in the Chinese Gazette, September, 1883, is published in the Chinese Gazette.

Original Bank Corporation, 1,185,070
Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, 1,185,070
London and China, 1,185,070
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 1,185,070

Total, \$4,760,210

The Pioneer of the 10th ult. says:—"The great silk growing industry of Bengal has long been the subject of much discussion, and, to be told, is no distant date, to extinction. Ten years ago the decline began to be clearly perceptible, but even then the trade was nearly as large as it is now. Contemporary writers on 'Hindu' in India and the East, who in the European markets with China, France, and Italy, but cannot even hold their own against the supply of raw silk to the silk-weaving industry of the United States. The raw silk imported into India has increased during the last seven years by 60 per cent. Bengal silk is said to have sunk so low in the estimation of the Western world that it is only in the case of supplies not sufficient to meet the demand, and thus Bengal has to depend largely on the chances of the silk crops in other countries. The cause of the decline is said to be that the Bengal silkworm, originally from Persia, has degenerated in the Indian climate. The production of cocoons being frequent and abundant, at the same time small and thin, yielding less silk than waste. The active breeders are brought before the fact that the mortality among the worms is great."

Among the Occasional Notes in the *St. James's Gazette* we find the following:—"A French writer, M. H. Magon, has assumed himself by making a collection of the blunders and mistakes made by French authors, official and otherwise, in the use of the English language. Some of these are due to simple ignorance—as, for instance, when M. Thiers speaks of the Drusus as a 'Christian tribe,' the fact being that they distinguished themselves by murdering Christians. The *St. James's Gazette* makes M. Magon write over 'the ruins of Mintermar,' and the *Patrie* puts the phrase 'times Danais' into the mouth of the 'wise Ulysses.' The same paper, under the heading 'Cholera in Coochin China,' says that the disease had broken out in Hongkong and Shanghai, but that the personnel of the embassy had not been attacked by it. To place Shanghai and Hongkong in Coochin China, is to make a mistake of the first order. The *St. James's Gazette* also makes M. 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